

**CAPULIN ALLOTMENT #451**

Carson National Forest  
Camino Real Ranger District

**ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS 2011**

The annual meeting for the Capulin Allotment was held on February 11, 2011, at the Forest Supervisor's Office in Taos, New Mexico. The Capulin Grazing Association was represented by Robert A. Martinez, and Erminio Martinez. Melvin Herrera and Sean Kelly represented the Forest Service.

These annual operating instructions are hereby made a part of the Term Grazing Permit for the Capulin Grazing Association.

The Camino Real Ranger District and the permittees discussed possible drought conditions, current snow depth and water content on the allotment and the outlook on predicted weather patterns for this coming grazing season. The Southwest Region is experiencing Moderate to Extreme drought, so any non-use this grazing season will be considered resource protection non-use. The mountainous Capulin Allotment is less affected and is classified as being in moderate drought at the time of the meeting. Forest Service and Permittees remain optimistic about grazing permitted numbers this year.

**Table 1 - Permittees, Permitted and Authorized Kind and Number.**

<b>1. Permittees</b>	<b>Permitted Number and Kind</b>	<b>Authorized Number and Kind</b>
<b>Capulin Grazing Association</b>	<b>55 c/c and 4 bulls</b>	<b>55 c/c and 4 bulls</b>
Erminio and Roberto Martinez	18 cow/calf	31 c/c 2 bulls
Robert A. Martinez	11 cow/calf	18 c/c 2 bull
Roberto M. Martinez Estate	26 cow/calf	6 c/c

**Table 2 - Season of use.**

<b>2. Season of Use</b>	
06/01 - 9/30	(122 days)

**Table 3 - Pasture Rotation**

<b>3. Pasture Rotation</b>				
<b>Pasture</b>	<b>Estimated Dates</b>	<b>Estimated Days</b>	<b>Actual Use</b>	<b>Utilization %</b>
OK Canyon	06/01 – 06/30	30 days		
Baca	07/01 – 07/31	31 days		
Casita de Piedra	08/01 – 08/31	31 days		
Capulin Canyon	09/01 – 09/30	30 days		

Adaptive management will continue to be applied to the management of the Capulin allotment which means that the season of use, numbers grazed and rotation schedules may be adjusted throughout the grazing season based on resource conditions. Range improvements, i.e. fences, will be maintained prior to moving to a different pasture.

#### **4. Maintenance of Improvements**

The entire cost of improvements maintenance is the responsibility of the permittees. Assigned allotment boundary fences, division fences, stock tanks, springs, cattleguards, and other range structural improvements must be maintained prior to the permittees going on to the allotment.

#### **5. Other Items Discussed**

The 2010 grazing season went well overall due to permittees cooperation and use of a range rider. Utilization was within the allowable guidelines. Management on the allotment by the permittees was excellent resulting with livestock moves going smoothly and good distribution of animals. Maintenance of range improvements was good.

Permittees were encouraged to continue their monitoring program for their allotment.

Utilization guidelines for 2011 are 40% of available annual forage in key use areas and 4 inches stubble height in riparian zones. Forage utilization will be measured in key use areas.

The Forest Service is planning on doing additional thinning on the allotment this summer within the La Jara project. Fuelwood will be available this year in Baca unit.

The first dirt stock tank in OK pasture needs material added to the dam and rocks placed to discourage cattle trailing over the dam.

Baca and Solomon springs, as well as some springs in the Capulin pasture, need new black water pipe. Forest Service informed the permittees that it is available and they need to call with the lengths, so FS employees can go through the stockpile. Permittees said they would want access to go behind the locked gates. This can be accommodated.

Permittees discussed maintenance responsibilities on the fence between the Capulin and Flechado Allotments. Capulin Permittees asked to be informed of the schedule for the Flechado allotment's La Jara pasture. They wish to fix this stretch immediately before the Flechado cattle graze the La Jara Pasture, so it will be in the best possible condition. Permittees are concerned with unauthorized use by Flechado livestock.

The Forest Service discussed ongoing efforts with the Travel Management Rule. A decision is expected to be signed by the Forest Supervisor sometime during this grazing season. Permittees stated that they need to use ATV's and motor vehicles for performing their required maintenance on fences and other range improvements, checking that gates are closed, checking on cattle health and location, and placing salt and mineral supplements. Forest Service should be able to accommodate with a written letter issued to the permittees.

The grazing fee this year is \$1.35 per head month for cattle.

Permittees and FS will look at the range together to determine range readiness and on-date, and tentatively agreed on May 27, 2011 for an inspection.

Priority for Range Betterment work for 2011:

1. The first dirt stock tank in OK pasture needs material added to the dam and rocks placed to discourage cattle trailing over the dam.
2. Capulin Trap may need more barbed wire and steel posts.
3. Fence along private land next to highway west of Roberto Spring.
4. Need to put in a trough above Shadow Mountain.
5. Need to replace some troughs in Casita de Piedra pasture.

Permittees would like for FS to set up a meeting with Taos Pueblo to discuss fence maintenance and other issues.

NEPA is scheduled a few years out for the Capulin allotment. Discussion took place on the allotments going under analysis this year and those scheduled for next year.

Grazing Instructions for 2011 are the same as in 2010.

Forest Service would like at least 2 weeks notice prior to any proposed change in management (either season or numbers) so that they can go look at the allotment with the permittee.